

My dear father.

A happy New Year to you and Martin. Is there any truth in the statement that we may expect you here? Mr. Blair (with whom I spent a day some time ago at Morristown) and the Ladies both expected a firm decision to have you spend a few days with them. Between them and Cambreleng, and Hunter you might pass the cold weather very comfortably if you are still set against New York - think of it. I visited Washington last month and remained some ten days. I was in the President's House the evening of Mrs. Polk's reception as many had complained to Bradford Wood's wife last year of my not calling and I did not know when I might have another chance. She was very gracious and Polk told me as I was coming away that he was glad to see me!

\_\_\_\_\_ Van Buren

Buchanan asked me to dinner but I told him I was engaged to dine with Blair as I was, which after put me out of his hooks -

Walker I saw a good deal of - he is going to remain at Washington and practice in the Sup. Court- Ritchie looks old - he passes me without speaking. And I presume really does not know me as I am gone so long.

I got a pretty good argument into the Court in my case \_\_\_\_\_, the argument was decisive to his \_\_\_\_\_ but as Webster is arguing the M\_\_\_\_\_ case talked all the while about mine I demand a right to make some statement and suggestions in reply and in this may allow proof in \_\_\_\_\_ for the last word - I am in momentary expectation of having the usual by telegraph and presume the court is deciding it while I write. Taney, Woodbury, Nelson and Daniel are with us - all the others, but McKinley rather against us and to whom I hope about 2/3 stay with us and the balance in doubt. This is one amazing weak court. I trust to my good work to win, but it is doubtful - a decision against us would have a more serious inroad on states rights than Marshall ever made and not with a Court room too! \_\_\_\_\_. the result is doubtful - so does our Federalism break out in \_\_\_\_\_, McKinley \_\_\_\_\_ was after this more discharged \_\_\_\_\_ !

Webster asked me to dinner and put me on his right in a company of ten. R\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ Clarks of R. Is. Coxs, Pres. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ at dinner he told me an amusing story of the manner in which Calhoun used to walk him around the Capitol and say "We must unite sir! Combine our \_\_\_\_\_ together! Those are the points of danger which we must combat and prostrate - Albany! Sir! Albany and Richmond!" \_\_\_\_\_ 6! I saw \_\_\_\_\_ also trained me with his map. \_\_\_\_\_, Miller \_\_\_\_\_. I spent a day and night with Blair - his wife and daughters were a little complaining \_\_\_\_\_. He is the happiest man in the overthrow of the \_\_\_\_\_ is he says I ever saw. The tone of this administration is very subdued. \_\_\_\_\_ majority of \_\_\_\_\_ times heated. Managing future causes \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to trouble it is like a stroke of death in a word and warns those \_\_\_\_\_ is also ready"!

Coming home I passed a night at Balt. and \_\_\_\_\_ gave me a grand supper. Last Sunday night I came from Washington, passed the day and night delightfully at \_\_\_\_\_ about 3 miles from Balt. He is very anxious you should visit him and has a superb place.

I mention these dinners here as they illustrate the state of feeling as well as anything. \_\_\_\_\_  
Butler \_\_\_\_\_ may from. T \_\_\_\_\_ was very friendly. I called on his family all of whom asked for  
you. I am \_\_\_\_\_ the death blow in the last campaign – tho' it may linger for  
years in some of the southern states.

W \_\_\_\_\_ truly \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Van Buren

New York Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1849

P.S. Benton is well disposed and with \_\_\_\_\_ takes strong stand on the Proviso – it is serious  
and now all our friends Cambreleng yourself, myself and others without much time turn him -  
but he is not the man he was and never had tact or judgment he begged me to say to you that the  
Buffalo Convention was the greatest stumbling block he has met. Blair showed him your letter,  
and I showed him some articles of Cambrelengs and talked freely with him – he is unsound and  
cautious – don't write him -

Jan 2

Whitehouse, Jany 8th, 1849

My Dear Sir

We have been at home nearly two months, but I found the plantation affairs so much in arrears that they have occupied all my time. With a heavy crop of grain in the barn yard and my threshing mill had been suffered to get out of order and I have only lately been able to send the rice to a falling market. I have had the curiosity to thrash out each field separately and so far have found this inferior land yielding 45 bushels to the acre and the best 55 bushels which is certainly a great yield of grain. It is probable that the whole wide average 50 bushels round. While my poor upland has with manure and great care given only 27 bushels of corn. I wished to try the \_\_\_\_\_ as you advised and bought seven barrels from Mr. Dey, but although he promised \_\_\_\_\_ and I paid him. The manure has not yet come to hand, and is not yet shipped. I brought with me a quantity of bone dust which I have already tried with great success upon winter grain. It is the cheapest and best manure I have used and I advise you to try it. The cost is a cent a pound, mine was bought from the Union Chemical Company H.N. Fryatt, Pa.

O say nothing about the election for I believe it terminated as you foresaw and desired. I am sincerely pleased that Cass was defeated. What sort of a President Taylor will make \_\_\_\_\_ knowing he will probably be a tool in the hands of the leadership especially if Mr. Clay returns to the Senate and I have no doubt many of the \_\_\_\_\_ wives desire this more. He may \_\_\_\_\_ the council of one \_\_\_\_\_ as he did more of the others.

What do you think now of the chances of the duration of the republic in France? I fear a President Napoleon will be as uneasy near the throne as was the first consul and adopt the same means to mound one. Indeed he has only to let matters take their natural course and they will flush him into that solution. There are very very few real republicans in France: for the real Republicans are butchers and disorganizers and \_\_\_\_\_ in France. There is no desire to see such a form of government established, it is inconsistent with the national character which is not much influenced since the time of the Grand Monarque. The French cherish the memory of the Emperor because he ministered to their ruling passion. The \_\_\_\_\_ of glory, and they never can have sober thoughts first on trust. " \_\_\_\_\_ as Ritchie says."

We left New York on the evening of the 11 Nov. and were at home here on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> after passing three days in Charleston. So you see we are improving in our communications. We have two good steamers plying between Princetown Charleston and the packet between Manhatten New York come and go with the utmost regularity in about 60 hours.

Julius Pringle had Mr. And Mrs. Maitland with him. His wife's sister; but they go home tomorrow. The heat has been too great for them and they have determined to take advantage of the cool spell of weather to seek a more \_\_\_\_\_ climate. When it is, so warm it always reminds us of your visit and makes us wish you would see how much the old place is improved.

The house has expanded its wings and the shrubs have grown into trees. By the way, they all mistook the warm weather in December for the first burst of Spring and began accordingly to bud and blossom in area only now finding out their mistake. It will make the real spring very backward.

What do you think of the California mania? It is fortunate for me mail postage is low and \_\_\_\_\_ . The \_\_\_\_\_ of letter from \_\_\_\_\_ - because we've been in Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_ supposed I must know all about California and I am tormented for information about the \_\_\_\_\_ region. No country was ever much benefitted by \_\_\_\_\_ mines of the precious ore. Coal and iron are far better than gold & silver. I question whether the \_\_\_\_\_ of San Francisco will \_\_\_\_\_ this evil acquisition.

Mrs. Poinsett still limps about. She thinks herself no better, but it appears to me she has been benefitted by her Northern summer. She joins me in kind affectionate regards to you and yours who are beneath your roof and

I remain my dear sir very faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ yours

JR Poinsett

Honorable Martin Van Buren  
Lindenwald, NY

GeorgeTown DC 10<sup>th</sup> January 1849

Hon Martin Van Buren

My Dear Sir

It has been nearly two years since I was at your house and you unhandd one Hundred dollars toward the Jackson monument and you requested me to not call on you for the money until it was wanting and I only do so now because it is to my intent to collect if I can five hundred dollars to put up the foundation and lay the corner stone at an early day for the mason that I am laying(?) out of my percentage until that is done I have a large subscription in your state who have written at the end their name draw on me at sight when the comer stone is laid. The committee has just got money enough to pay the artist who has the horse now done when (lineout) and they have pledged(sic) all the money in hand for the materials and his labors in making the Statue and the money is now wanting for the pedestel which will cost 16 thousand dollars. I obligated myself to the committee to raise the necessary money to lay the corner Stone + put up the foundation as high as the surface which will enable me to collect my subscription in your state. The cost of which will be about seven Hundred dollars. I made it relying on you and a few others in your state I am now trying to make up as much here as I can I have raised since the first of this month 180% of it. Those that have seen the horse now (lineout) not hesitated as they did when I solicited them for the reason now they have confidence that it will (inserted) be done

When my friend John Van Buren was in Washington I invited him and your Attorney General Mr Gordon and a Mr Stevens to go with me to see the progress of it they went and were all gratified and well pleased Mr Gordon said when I come to Albany to call on him and he would Subscribe but was not prepared to do so here You will (lineout)(lineout) enclose to me the money if convenient for its faithfull (sic) application you may rest assured of I will enclose to you a receipt (sic) such a one as the committee has drafted for me to give to any one who Subscribes. It does me a great deal of good to see how the present administration fear you Sir and to contrast you calm resignation to the late contest and the fear

that is lurking in the constituency of the powers that be in Washington. They had made arrangements to turn out of office every man who even was supicioned (sic) of being either For Free Soil of for Van Buren if Cass had been elected but now they dare not do it for fear of losing of their friends at the Hands of the incoming administration.

The late glorious result of 300 thousand votes upon a new party of only 90 days groth (sic) only shows what be expected in four years time we will not give up our organization in this District and will forth forward in a week or ten days our address to the people of the United States written by our old Friends John A Dix & F.P. Blair Mr Blair does not wish to be known in this matter at present but of this I need not speak to you s you are aware of his position The Southern Caucaus (sic) at the Capitol are plotting a disolution of the Union. But they will have a glorious failure in that is my candid opinion I hope the whole North will stand by us in opposing retrocession or else we will go in at once for the removal of the seat of government. There can be no doubt now that there ever will be a northern Slave State added to this union as the people's minds are made up upon that score. I have made this letter longer than I intended but must congratulate you before I close upon the noble stand you have taken there is not another man in the Union that could of got this vote you did upon that question alone. I hope you will pardon me for (lineout) trespassing upon you valuable time for I assure you this comes from one of your truest friends though an humble mechanic. Hoping you many enjoy a long and happy life is the sincere wish of

Your most obts Servant

Richard R Shekell

(small page, receipt)

Received of Martin Van Buren the sum of one  
Hundred dollars for the use of the Jackson Monument  
Committee, to whom I acknowledge myself account-  
-table. Therefor GeorgeTown D.C. 10 January 1849

Richard R Sheckell

Collection Jackson Mont Comm

Akron Ohio Jan. 13. 1849

Dear Martin Van Buren

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to transmit the copy of a resolution adopted by the True Democracy of Ohio at their State Convention held at Columbus on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. And in communicating this resolution organ of the Convention I beg to avail myself of the occasion to express my own candid approval of the sentiments embraced in it.

The association of your distinguished name with the great cause we have struggled to uphold, has contributed, in the Estimation of the True Democracy of this State, largely to the success which has thus far attended it, and as a friend of this cause I cannot forego an expression of my sense? of profound obligation to you for consenting, at a sacrifice of so many personal considerations to become the candidate of this new organization for the presidency – I feel persuaded you could have been induced to make such sacrifice from no other cause than a deep devotion to the best interests of the American people –

I am with Great Respect  
Your obt. Humble Servant  
Dan R. Tilden

Resolved. That the thanks of the True Democracy of the Union, and the friends of freedom everywhere, are pre-eminently due to Martin Van Buren of New York, who almost alone, among the Elder Statesmen of the Country, fully identified himself in the political struggle of 1848 with the consistent opponents of slavery extensions,, and bore this standard with calm courage and his unshrinking constancy until the conflict closed in a nominal defeat, but in such victory.



Silver Springs Jan 17. 1849

My Dear Sir:

As I make my weekly visit to the city today I will give you the Journal of it that you may at least know as much of the metropolis as a Maryland farmer.

In the House the discussion was about \_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun's \_\_\_\_\_ his paper was in the hand(?) of Lumpkin of Georgia who was reading it \_\_\_\_\_ himself – Houston of \_\_\_\_\_ approached him and opening the conversation about the difficulties of the South – Houston was extremely \_\_\_\_\_ by the attitude of the \_\_\_\_\_ in that quarter. Calhoun was \_\_\_\_\_ able to \_\_\_\_\_ himself upon them as a Leader. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself & these way \_\_\_\_\_ getting rid of him. If Benton plus \_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun and Clay who kept the affairs of the country in a See Saw were called to their \_\_\_\_\_ homes(?) where they would be quiet the party would have no difficulty \_\_\_\_\_ the country – with this \_\_\_\_\_ chimed in & \_\_\_\_\_ his paper said they must do something with it but what he did not know. It would have a powerful effect on the people tonight \_\_\_\_\_ on the opinion that I must be \_\_\_\_\_ with what backing it could get which would help the Author who was too much \_\_\_\_\_ to have much influence without help. I gather \_\_\_\_\_ from this colloquy(?) that Calhoun continued \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Southern Representatives and how it was to be \_\_\_\_\_ how to get rid of it northeast \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to them that the Free Soilers \_\_\_\_\_ to cast their \_\_\_\_\_ and was sorry that they had not \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ Democracy of New York which had opposed them(their?) \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ Southern he said) \_\_\_\_\_ in their refusing him you had very \_\_\_\_\_ Case for \_\_\_\_\_ (without intending a \_\_\_\_\_ they must be content with your giving them Polk! That for my part I thought that was sufficient and I guess your account of obligations with them will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun to be \_\_\_\_\_ and we have nothing to expect in this \_\_\_\_\_ I left \_\_\_\_\_ walking(Calhoun?) and \_\_\_\_\_ from (Allen?) with whom I walked from the Capitol I had this account of the fate of Calhoun's \_\_\_\_\_ which has been so well \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ His sectional caucus. He said to use a Western \_\_\_\_\_ that the Southern Whigs after stating their objections to the whole \_\_\_\_\_ withdrew \_\_\_\_\_ that two thirds of the Southern Democrats took exception to the \_\_\_\_\_ that by way of getting rid of it all together \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ into Calhoun's hands \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives \_\_\_\_\_ you have seen a special \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun's \_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun's task in the South and \_\_\_\_\_ in that proposition demands that of the Southern \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_ -

Allen \_\_\_\_\_ in Ohio by the \_\_\_\_\_ - His friends who \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_ so far make it a point that they shall \_\_\_\_\_ him on nobody.

The gossip goes that Clay is on his way to Washington – I suppose the cholera \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ we had read your letter three times in my family \_\_\_\_\_ you  
sent \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the best you \_\_\_\_\_ you were still on the rise  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the  
city \_\_\_\_\_ way from Silver Springs to St.  
Louis – As you see I \_\_\_\_\_ still a prophet with some of your old  
\_\_\_\_\_ you improved the idea of the \_\_\_\_\_ by claiming exemption from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ those who acquit themselves with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_ at this \_\_\_\_\_ him of \_\_\_\_\_.  
I have never seen Congress so late \_\_\_\_\_  
really is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ This is literally \_\_\_\_\_ - day of \_\_\_\_\_ things  
though we have had that \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I wish you would remember me to our good friend \_\_\_\_\_ difficulty to  
\_\_\_\_\_

Affectionately yours T. P. Blair

January 18, 1849

Page ONE

My dear father,

What I think of the enclosed as you ask is that you have gained the interest and(*on*) your too(100) \_\_\_\_\_ months. I subscribed 150 sent my check to Blair for the amount with a request that he would not *\_use it\_* till it was wanted *\_and\_* *\_it\_* presented itself in *\_the\_* bank book six months or a year ago! So send us your money and help your bank. Your Washington letter did not reach me till some ten days after I was home. Had you not better write Edward Coles about it? It was Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ I supped with in Baltimore. \_\_\_\_\_ that way a long time engaged to Miss. Harper, I married one of the Donnelly's *\_the\_* major who happened to be here as this moment agrees with me that my handwriting is good *\_and he\_* particularly agrees with me that *\_Mr. Van Buren\_* \_\_\_\_\_.

SIDEBAR on Page ONE

\_\_\_\_\_ has a first rate cook and a \_\_\_\_\_ house and is very happy. \_\_\_\_\_ shows the *\_oysters\_* \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> that his *\_oysters\_* are worth the most. 2<sup>nd</sup> that \_\_\_\_\_ degrades his *\_oysters\_* \_\_\_\_\_. 3<sup>rd</sup> that \_\_\_\_\_.

TOP BAR on Page ONE

## Page TWO

*yours* is intolerable. That *neither* of  
*us* is disposed to raise any  
\_\_\_\_\_ objection to the latter  
if you have any property that you desire to convey to us  
Miss. Johnson who opined Vanderpool  
that she would marry no man  
in the world (He believed her) is  
engaged to Mr. John Bard who is  
remarkable for nothing except that he  
is quite a man. I hoped this  
evening there might before call  
with the happy couple he is  
a son of Mr. William Bard.  
Vanderpool did not pursue this  
matter as well in my absence as  
when I was present It is  
*said Mr and Mrs. J are* opposed. I  
sat an hour in the *old man's* room  
with himself + *wife,,* hearing the  
very people below: *as neither of them spoke*  
of *the* engagement I did  
not, but it is publicly announced and  
and Mrs. J told me of it.

*Your views* of matrimony *are*  
*remarkably sound like* your views  
generally: tho I should be very much  
surprised if I ever married again  
\_\_\_\_\_ such was a great feather

### Page THREE

in my cap. It is I believe the longest  
\_\_\_\_ *ever* \_\_\_\_ *rendered* in a *libel suit* \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ *in* \_\_\_\_ *the* \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ summed it up  
badly. I opened it - Oakley gave  
*us* a splendid charge which carried  
the verdict but Bennett's paper  
gave me all the credit and the  
public with that \_\_\_\_ *which* \_\_\_\_ justice  
and the start follow \_\_\_\_ *suit* \_\_\_\_ I  
have just *won* an important case  
*for Isaac Pruyn Catskill, and* \_\_\_\_ *on* \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ *the whole* my position *here* socially and  
professionally is everything I could  
wish with the simple exception that  
I cannot have my child with me.  
\_\_\_\_ *There* \_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_ *grand* controversy going between  
N.Y. and Brooklyn about this *ferry*. \_\_\_\_ *The* \_\_\_\_  
*Mayor* recommends additional counsel  
\_\_\_\_ *and* \_\_\_\_ this matter has been returned to the  
finance committee of the *two* houses  
each composed of 2 Whigs *and* 1  
*barnburner* and with (Willis) \_\_\_\_\_ Hall  
recommended that imploring me  
*one* of the Whigs named Webster  
some discipline was hard and as I  
am told a divided majority was  
for me! Is this not complimentary  
from the enemy? They have not  
yet however retained me and I

## Page FOUR

suppose \_Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Whiggery  
\_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm for this fat slice  
out of the compensation

\_\_\_\_\_ *I have been implored once*  
by Frank Griffin *once* by Pres. Hall and Blatchford  
*once by Sherman and Mather once by Otis Blount* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Whigs or hunkers/with perhaps Sherman/ *and* considerable  
hardships from getting they all \_\_\_\_\_  
*discard* any \_\_\_\_\_ to be extremely kind.

When I was at *Hudson*, *John Anable*  
told me *the anti-renters* intended to  
make up a large *fee and employ* me  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian. This  
was one of the *conditions* \_\_\_\_\_ on which I *defended*  
the \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_ has him \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_. I(*and*) *this* makes it \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ that the private counsel should  
be a \_\_\_\_\_. I write to a \_\_\_\_\_ (*Anable*)  
today about it - Please ask Dr.  
Beekman to speak to him about it  
when he goes to Hudson. I *paused*  
Sunday and part of Monday at Camberling.

### SIDEBAR on Page FOUR:

\_\_\_\_\_ Calhoun's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ out. He \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ maintain  
\_\_\_\_\_ J.V.B.